5,000 Informers—$2.5 Million

FBI Hired Chicago Spies

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CHICAGO, Jan. 20 (AP)—The FBI in Chicago paid $2.5 million to recruit an army of more than 5,000 spies who informed on Chicago area residents and organizations between 1966 and 1976, court records showed today.

During the same period, the FBI opened files on about 27,900 individuals and organizations it regarded as possible security risks or extremists, the documents showed.

The spying operation is the largest by the FBI disclosed to date. Last September the FBI said it had paid more than $1.6 million to 300 volunteer informants who spied on the Socialist Workers Party from 1960 through 1976. In that case, the FBI also acknowledged using more than 1,000 other informants. It provided no information, however, on how much it paid those spies.

The documents in the Chicago case also acknowledged an FBI break-in of the offices of the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights. A list of financial contributors was taken and dossiers were subsequently started on 40 of the persons whose names appeared on the list, the committee said.

The Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights was formed during the McCarthy era, its stated objective being to oppose government repression. It has most recently campaigned against government spying.

The FBI office in Chicago refused to comment on the documents.

The names of the informants and the targets of the spies were not made public. The documents were made public in response to written questions that Judge Alfred Y. Kirkland of U.S. District Court ordered the FBI to answer in a suit brought by the Ameri-

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FBI in Chicago Paid $2.5 Million For Informants

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can Civil Liberties Union, which alleges illegal government activity.

Between January, 1966, and November, 1976, the FBI's Chicago office used 5,145 informants and confidential sources who had not been used previously, the documents said.

Of the $2.5 million paid to the informants, about $2.1 million was paid to persons who provided information about possible security risks—individuals and groups who were defined by the FBI as not necessarily violent but who may have espoused controversial or unpopular ideas, such as opposition to the Vietnam war.

About $400,000 was paid to informants in "extremist" cases which Richard Gutman, an attorney and a spokesman for the Bill of Rights Committee, said involved mainly blacks, Hispanic-Americans and white hate groups.

"The overwhelming majority of the spying was political spying," Gutman said.

The break-in of the Bill of Rights Committee's offices is believed to be the first substantiated FBI burglary in Chicago.

In January, 1966, special Agent Emil L. Schroeder and other unidentified agents obtained the list of the committee's contributions "as a result of surreptitious entry," the documents said.

The FBI made the admission in response to a question dealing with burglary and so-called "black-bag" jobs. The FBI has also answered similar questions from the Alliance to End Repression, a local organization active in combatting police surveillance, and which also has a spying suit pending. The agency's answers to those questions have not yet been made available.